

Appl. No. 10/007,186  
Amtd. Dated July 30, 2003  
Reply to Examiner's Answer of May 30, 2003

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of preventing defective germination or rosette formation of a plant seed which tends to suffer from defective germination or rosette formation during growth thereof comprising the steps of:

leaving the plant seed to stand in a highly watery condition at a low temperature in a dark place; place for a sufficient period of time to inhibit defective germination or rosette formation of the plant seed, the dark place being sufficiently dark to prevent the plant seed from germinating; and drying the plant seed immediately after leaving the plant seed to stand in the highly watery condition at the low temperature in a dark place, before the seed becomes active.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the plant seed is dried in insufficient light to cause the seed to germinate.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 2, wherein the plant seed is dried in a dark place.